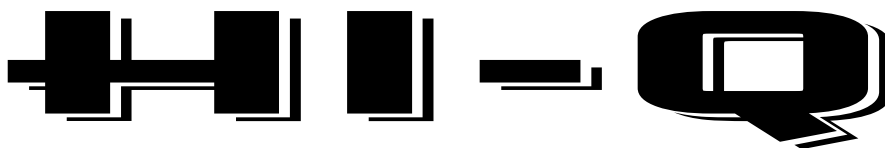




Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club



Thunder Bay, On-

Volume 88

November 2022

Issue 09

The Prez says (November edition)

This month, is going to be a true test for our new meeting format. This edition of Hi-Q should have the last month minutes of the October meeting, as well as November's Executive minutes of the meeting for your approval. Please note that we have also had our first technical committee meeting with highlights here in Hi-Q in order to keep you up-to-date.

With winter fast approaching, I certainly hope that everyone has an opportunity to hear Randy's VA3WBW's presentation on being prepared for I guess dangerous situations. As I live in a bit of a rural area of Thunder Bay, I am certainly looking forward to this insight to become better prepared and if our weather patterns are any indication, we could be in for an interesting winter.

After the presentation, we will try something somewhat new to most of us: Building something. We will try to make some PL-259 patch cords for your ham shack and these will be FREE. Yes, the LARC is providing some PL-259 connectors, and solder the coax was donated by VE3OJ. We will be able to use the workshop from the aviation electrical department for their workbench and some tools. Having said that, if you can, please bring your favourite knife, side cutters, soldering iron, multi meter, and whatever you think might be suitable for making some patch cables. Please be careful with the knives, I am off duty.

I hope to see everyone at the meeting (or via Zoom), ready to learn about being prepared and then willing to burn your fingers.

73 de Eric VE3XET

November Agenda

18:30 Meet and Greet (swap meet)

18:45 – 19:00 Round table

19:00 Official start of meeting

19:00 – 19:20 Approval of minutes, reports, and financial expenses over \$250

19:20 – 19:50 presentation Randy VA3WBW on being prepared

19:50 Adjourn official meeting after 50/50 draw

19:50 – 20:00 break

20:00 – 21:30 making coax PL-259 patch cables



LARC SENATE

Robert Hansen VE3RVA
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS
Lindo Scalese VE3NHX
Terry Stewardson VA3LU
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

LARC EXECUTIVE

President Eric Todd VE3XET
Vice-President James St Cyr VE3OPD
Secretary Stephan Burns VE3SJB
Treasure Stephan Burns VE3SJB
Director Axel Rehfuhs VE3OPF
Director Wayne Letang VE3WRL
Director John Grandell VA3WJX
Director To be elected at next meeting

TBay Emergency Coordinator

Brad Harris VE3MXJ

ACS Amethyst District Emergency Coordinator

Warren Paulson, VE3FYN

CANWARN

Public Service Events

Accredited Examiners

VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789
flesnick@tbaytel.net
VE3VAI Lori Bedford (807) 630-7688
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2022

ABOUT US

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. . Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to hqnewsletter@gmail.com

Amethyst District Auxiliary Communications Service Providing emergency communications for Northwestern Ontario

This is a list of the ACS frequencies in order of preference, number 1 being the first choice, if that frequency is in use or not working as in a repeater, then number 2 is the next choice, and so on,,,,,,,,,

VHF

1. 147.060- VE3YQT (MT.BALDY)
2. 147.390+ VE3BGA PL107.2 (LOCH LOMOND)
3. 146.820- VE3TBR PL107.2 (ST.JOSEPH HERITAGE)
4. SIMPLEX 146.520 > 146.580 > 146.550

HF

RAC ACS Canadian National Emergency Frequencies

1. 80M 3.675MHz LSB designated as ALPHA
2. 40M 7.135MHz LSB designated as BRAVO
3. 20M 14.135MHz USB designated as CHARLIE

Nets and Exercises

Wednesdays at 8 PM ET (2000hrs) 0000UTC on frequency 3.675MHz LSB (80 Metres)

We have four different net control operators across NWO. At the end of check in's we try and do some sort of exercise, winlink P2P, JS8 CALL, passing messages. Everyone is encouraged to check in, even if you are not an ACS or LARC member.

CANWARN

CANWARN : what is it?

What does it do?

What to report?

Where to send reports?

CANWARN stands for “Canadian Weather Amateur Radio Network”. It is a joint venture of Environment Canada and local Amateur radio clubs, which was started in 1987 by Randy Mawson (VE3TRW) Environment Canada

Amateur radio operators are trained in the art of Severe Weather Spotting by reps from Environment Canada. When severe weather threatens an area, a net is started and requests are made for reports from operators around our area. **(Our club has adopted a self reporting option directly to the weather office)**

These reports help meteorologists confirm what is happening in a certain area, on the ground, and gives real time information that satellites and radar cannot detect.

What to report (Winter)

- Snow fall rates of 10cm or more
- Snow fall rates of 2cm/hr or more
- Freezing rain (**Freezing rain is measured in mm's and can be observed as ice build up on tree branches**), (**Freezing drizzle is water droplets that are so small they are suspended in the air and often times associated with fog**)
- High winds of 60km/hr steady and or gusts to 90km/hr
- Damage incurred by weather
- Snow fall accumulation is measured in cm and mm, measurements can be taken every few metres apart for an average total. A snow board can also be used, it is constructed of a 1ft to 2ft square piece of wood covered with white felt to prevent any melting. **(Avoid measuring in a drifted area)**

Reports can be emailed to onstorm@canada.ca, meteocon@canada.ca, or twitter : ONstorm

In your report include your name, location, what is witnessed, time of event

73

John VA3JMS

**Emergency Preparedness Presentation**

One of my reasons for becoming a amateur radio operator was for emergency communications. It's almost ingrained in us from an early age after all, almost every apocalyptic movie from Terminator to Independence day, that Ham Radio saved the day.

It's hard to watch the world unfolding these last few years and last few months and wonder what's next and am I prepared for it. Being prepared means everything from back up power, security, food, to EMP protection, mobility and emergency communications .

At the meeting on November 10th, I want to share some of my insights on what world events I am tracking and how people can be prepared. This is a huge subject and would take many hours to discuss so we are going to go over most topics but try and focus on the amateur radio role in preparedness. I hope it gets others thinking about how prepared are they and what as a club we can do to improve our preparedness.

Randy McAllister VE3WBW

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club - June July August 2022 Treasurer Report				
		<i>as of October 30, 2022</i>		
	Chequing Account			
Opening Balance			\$5,424.64	
Incoming				
	Deposits Zoom & Dues		\$150	
Expences				
	None			
Closing Balance			\$5,574.64	
	Trailer Account			
Balance			\$1,115.46	
	Short Term Deposit			
Interest			\$4.70	
Balance			\$2,082.22	

Stephan Burns VE3SJB
LARC Treasurer



November Technical Committee Report

In attendance: VE3XET, VE3OPD, VE3OPF, VA3WJX, VE3NHX, via Zoom: VA3OJ, VE3FMT, VA3LU, VE3SJB

Start: 17:30

Repeater Updates

YQT: Waiting for tower update, VA3LU is concerned about the liability in the event our Heliac drops and hits something. VE3XET to follow up with CKPR on tower update and with help from VE3OPD obtain some new quotes to remove old Heliac and reinstall new Heliac with proper stand off fasteners as well as the newer antenna for YQT.

UPP: Consensus to scrap the Upsala repeater and bring it back to Thunder Bay for replacement parts as needed. VA3OJ went to Upsala, pulled the repeater and replaced it with a simple temporary repeater. Old repeater put out 80W compared to 15W on temporary unit. End result was less coverage, but at least usable, plus we do not lose our location until we decide on a permanent solution for Upsala.

BGA: VHF side of the repeater appears to be working fine – no issues. VE3OPD has noticed that the UHF side is acting up, ie. not IDing properly. VA3OJ thinks it can be fixed over the air, if not, VA3WJX has offered his jeep and join VA3OJ to go up to BGA before we get into bad weather.

TBR: UHF side is up and running and appears to be fine. The current controller on TBR controls the UHF and VHF as well as the ILRP. It appears that the repeater for the VHF side is operating as it should, however the levels need to be set within the controller. VA3LU figures he knows what needs to be done and wants to find some time within the next couple of weeks to drag some gear up to TBR and set the levels. (VA3LU, please reach out via Slack when you think you can go and hopefully, we can round up a body or two to help get the gear up and back down).

OTHER: A discussion was held regarding the quickly becoming obsolete and somewhat difficult to program controllers that our club is using. VE3OPD, VA3LU, & VE3OPF shared their views in the Arcom RC-210 repeater controller. Mainly the ease of programming and hooking it up as it uses a similar harness to our existing controllers. VE3FMT and VE3NHX studied the schematic and were impressed by

its simplicity and felt that it would probably be a long time before these controllers would be obsolete.

The technical committee will make a recommendation to the club's executive to put a motion forward to purchase a complete Arcom RC-210 controller for test purposes or immediate use if required. The technical committee is aware that this motion will have to be voted on by the general membership as it will probably be around \$700 - \$800 Canadian.

The technical committee has agreed to create a subgroup within our existing slack channel in order to communicate freely and share ideas. VE3OTV will be asked to mail out invites for those that are not part of the slack channel so far and help set everyone up. Slack Invite: <https://bit.ly/larc-slack> (you will be added to the group manually)

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 from 17:15 – 18:45 in person at VE3FRH or via zoom.

Meeting adjourned: 19:00

73 de VE3OPF



Minutes for the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club Executive Meeting

Date: November 3rd, 2022

Meeting Start 1906 EST

Secretary's Report: Stephan VE3SJB

To be submitted to be printed in HI-Q

Treasurer's Report: Stephan VE3SJB

To be submitted to be printed in HI-Q

Youth / Student membership to be researched to reintroduce the membership class An increase to the membership rates are being looked into. Possibly bring it up by \$5 per membership. To be further investigated. LARC Taxes & Corporate Reporting Stephan VE3SJB has applied online for access to update the corporate information. Currently waiting for a response to continue forward. CRA needs to have us update the corporate information then we can further proceed with submitting the required tax forms Corporate Seal has been located and will be arranged to get to the Secretary / Treasurer Current Treasurer / Secretary to make instruction set for future Treasurer / Secretary to put into briefcase/Google Drive

General Meeting Presentations

Need to get some presentations lined up for the next few months Stephan VE3SJB has been sending out email to various 'famous' ham ops for presentations

Eric VE3XET to talk to Jeff Cedarwall about a presentation on repeaters

Reminder

Executive, Board members, presenters and committee volunteers if you can't make an executive meeting or general meeting please send a report 24+ hours ahead of time to the executive. This will allow us to include any reports you may have to be included in the meeting and to keep the meetings moving along smoothly.

Thunder Bay ACS (formerly known as ARES): Brad Harris VE3MXJ, T. Bay EC On Saturday November 19 2022 9AM - 1PM EST will be the annual ARES SET. National SET has been cancelled by RAC because of reorganization. As Brad has more information he will let people know. Anyone who wants to receive weekly notifications about the weekly ARES net please give Brad your cell phone number and service provider. The information can be sent to Brad by email or text message to get added to this notification service. Radio station at North Central Fire Station EOC is now up and running.

Brad has sent out ARES package to members interested in ARES LARC is sanctioning ARES SET that is set to commence on November 19 2022

Repeater News: Technical Committee

Axel reviewed the technical committee report.

Public Service - John Sacek

Randy VA3OJ received correspondence that the Sibley Loppet will be running in March. Further details will be provided as we get closer to the event.

Club Trailer

Eric contacted Bob VE3RVA about the trailer. LARC is offering to sell the trailer back to Bob for \$1.00 if he would be interested. Currently waiting for a response from Bob.

Old Business

All local repeater frequencies and other fixed frequencies are to be published in Hi-Q for members

Eric VE3XET to call Glen Wallace about getting LARC involved with Lakehead Search and Rescue

Christmas party to be arranged for December 2022.

Randy VA3OJ has been working on this and nothing has been secured yet

New Business

Jeff Cedarwall - Eric VE3XET had a conversation with him about getting heliax and offering to test connectors on the cables. Jeff has extended an offer to help with LARC repeater setup/troubleshooting.

If you plan on attending the LARC December Dinner Meeting please reply to the email that will be sent out.

Door prize for the december meeting - Arborist Throw Kit

MOTION #1 - Axel VE3OPF "To purchase a door prize for under \$75" Seconded by Eric

VE3XET, All in favor

MOTION #2 - Stephan VE3SJB "To setup a google account for the LARC" Seconded by Axel

VE3OPF, All in favor

I.T. Department

Website - In progress - Stephan talking to Leo about getting domain transferred Google Account - To be setup for the LARC Looking for anyone interested in helping or learning how to manage our website, Google account, social media accounts etc.

Adjournment 2059 EST Axel VE3OPF Motion to Adjourn

Attendance

Eric VE3XET, Wayne VA3WRL, Axel VE3OPF
Teagan, John VA3WJX, John VE3FMT, James
VE3OPD, Stephan VE3SJB, Brad VE3MXJ

Randy VA3OJ

LARC DECEMBER MEETING

(This dinner meeting replaces our regular 2nd Thursday of the month meeting)

Where: Chicago Joe's on Arthur St (Victoria Inn)

When: Friday – December 9, 2022 @ 18:30

The LARC has secured a special meeting room within Chicago Joe's for our December Club Meeting.

This is a couple's friendly event, so you may bring your OM, or XYL, please RSVP before November 25, 2022.

<https://forms.gle/rppEzatXurnRNV4e8>

We will be ordering from the regular menu.

Our meeting portion will be short and sweet and hopefully we can keep each other entertained with good stories and good company.

There will be a door prize & draws, and YES, you must be in attendance to win.